

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated September 11, 2002, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alocca et al. This rejection is respectively traversed for the following reasons.

The arrangement disclosed and claimed in the present application allows data, such as rate table data, to be transmitted from an external source directly to a postage calculator in a scale that is connected to a postage meter machine, the data having to proceed only through a modem connected to the external source, and a switchover module which is operated by the postage meter machine. In other words, when the switchover module is switched to a state for direct transmission of data to the postage calculator in the scale, the incoming rate table data, received at the modem, do not have to reside in the postage meter machine at all, but are passed directly to the postage calculator in the scale. There is no intermediate storage of the data in the postage meter machine with a subsequent transmission to the postage calculator in the scale, as is conventional and as takes place in the Alocca et al reference.

As explained in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the present specification, requiring the incoming rate table data to proceed through a control circuit of the postage meter machine, as takes place in the Alocca et al reference, has proven to be a bottle neck for efficient and rapid downloading. This problem is avoided in the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application by allowing the data to proceed directly to the postage calculator in the scale, by switching of the switchover module.

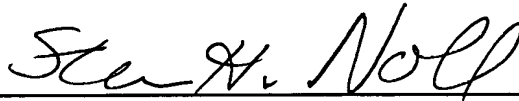
Independent claim 1 has been amended to emphasize this feature. As set forth in claim 1, the switchover module is set to a switching state to conduct data downloading directly from the external source (that is stated earlier in the claim to supply data to the modem) to the postage calculator. Claim 1 also states that this downloading proceeds exclusively via the modem and the switchover module. The word "exclusively" is intended to explicitly claim the aforementioned fact that no intermediate storage of the data during downloading occurs in the postage meter.

Since the Alocca et al system operates in the conventional manner of routing downloaded rate table data through the postage meter machine, with intermediate storage in the postage meter machine, before the data are supplied to the postage calculator in the scale, the Alocca et al reference does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1 and is arranged and operating in that claim, and therefore does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claims 2-14 add further structure to the novel combination of claim 1, and therefore are not anticipated by the Alocca et al reference for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Other references were generally cited but were not specifically relied upon as a basis for rejecting any claim of the application. Applicant therefore does not view a detailed distinguishing of the subject matter of the present application over the teachings of those references as being necessary at this time. Applicant submits, however, that all claims of the application are patentable over the teachings of all of the references of record, taken singly or in combination.

Early reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims thereof are  
therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



(Reg. 28,982)

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An arrangement for loading rate table data comprising:

a postage meter;

an external scale having a postage calculator;

a modem which receives rate table data from an external source; and

a switchover module connected between said postage meter, said scale and said modem and having a control line for setting a switching state of said switch over module to selectively conduct data downloading [to said postage meter] of rate table data [for] directly from said external source to said postage calculator exclusively via said modem and said switchover module.

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